

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DATE: May 18, 1981

SUBJECT: Total Petroleum Land Farming Operation, Alma, MI

FROM: Ross Powers, Oil & Hazardous Materials Coordinator
THRU: A. R. Winkhofer, Director, EDO ~~REO~~

TO: Greg Vanderlaan, Chief, Office of Superfund

*Still
potential spill
should be
tracked*

On May 5, 1981, I met with Mr. Patrick Lincoln, Director of Environmental Affairs and Mr. Bernie Shaver, Environmental Chemist for Total Petroleum Inc., and together with Mr. Larry Elmleaf from MDNR Environmental Enforcement discussed the clean up of this site.

The refinery uses the land farm for disposal of biodegradable wastes. The runoff is now controlled and trapped by berms and a collection trench. The water collected is pumped to the NPDES permitted refinery wastewater system. A hydrogen^{oxygen} study was submitted to the MDNR District Office in Lansing. The site is located on clay soils with a 1-2 ft. gravel layer located about 10 ft. below the surface. Monitoring wells are set into the gravel layer around the site. The groundwater has been found to be within dischargeable limits, according to Mr. Lincoln. It flows in a northeast direction from the site. Total Inc., filed a "preapplication" for a license to operate under Act 64, PA of 1979 on 12/28/79 with the MDNR.

The application is for permission to continue to soil farm "old slop pits, tank bottoms, API separator grit, oily soil from spills and treatment pond sludges".

Recommendations

Surface waters are now controlled and treated. Proper operation of the soil farm and monitoring by the MDNR should prevent this site from becoming a public nuisance. No further inspections are needed by this office at this time.

CC:

T. Newell, MDNR District #2
L. Elmleaf, MDNR Enforcement Division

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